

Celebrations

Special Edition Newsletter - Spring 2020



Helping Celebrate Abilities



Residential Services—Caring Through the Crisis

When the severity of the Corona Pandemic quickly and swiftly descended upon our community, our Residential Services program responded with fast action in order to protect our employees and the individuals we care for. Beginning early on in March, HCA's Residential Services program started taking the necessary steps to ensure everyone's health and safety. We continue to follow the guidelines and Executive Orders in order to do our part to keep people safe, flatten the curve and survive this global pandemic. Our Direct Support Professionals are truly amazing job and are working to keeping our individuals calm and safe during very trying and difficult times.

A NOTE TO OUR RESPITE HOUSE:

Please know that your team's ability to support Kyle A. has made an impactful difference in the life of his family. News our office received today from the Case Manager about how well Kyle did with transitioning home and how helpful that time was for not only him, but for his family during this pandemic, has been a highlight.

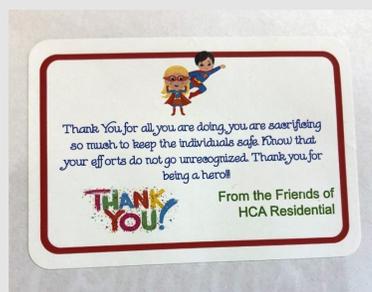
Please extend our appreciation to the staff who leave their families each day in these uncertain times to meet the needs of individuals and other families like Kyle's. Their work brings light to those families and to the Regional Office team during a time when it is so much needed.

HCA and your staff never cease to inspire, even during a pandemic.

HCA would like to thank everyone in the community that have made the following donations to support us during these difficult times. You are the best!

~ An anonymous donation of 200 bags filled with noodles, sauce, cake mixes and gift cards to thank our hard-working employees!

~ Mask donations from several people to keep our employees and individuals safe!



We'd like to give a special Shining Star shout out to our employees who are truly essential, working in the following group home locations 24/7: Charleston, Deer Lake, Free Standing Respite, Front Street A, Front Street B, Greenwood, Gorman, Lauderdale, Lower Stella Ireland, Magnolia, Markie Lane, Middle Stella Ireland, Nanticoke, Old State Road, Payne, and Skye Island

Joe Pietrosanti—IRA
Maintenance

Carl Maridien—Shift Manager,
Charleston

Dah Harris—IRA Maintenance
Manager

Employee Shining Stars!

Employees are nominated by their co-workers or community members in recognition of their hard work and dedication to the people we serve!

Molly Tomancik—Teacher
Assistant, Preschool

Shaneequ McNeal—DSP
Middle Stella Ireland

Donna Maddi—DSP, Payne
Road

Our Leadership

Board of Directors: William Sands, *President*, Lars Mead, *Vice President*, Dana Potter, *Secretary*, Amy Brown, *Treasurer*; Gail Barton, Mick Chorny, Xan Penrose, Cat Ryan, Irene Radigan

Executive Team: Stephen Sano, *Executive Director*, Lisa Kost, *Associate Executive Director/ CFO*, Cheryl Smith, *Residential Director*, Lynn Gilyard, *Education Director*, Chris Breslin, *Clinical Director*, Theresa Bailey, *HR Director*, Brent Kenny, *Quality Assurance Director*.

GIVING TUESDAY—TUESDAY May 5th 2020

In light of the current global pandemic gripping our world, this year's Giving Tuesday has been moved to Tuesday, May 5th. This is a global effort to encourage giving to non-profit organizations, small businesses, and others who may be struggling through this economic crisis. We ask you please consider gifting to HCA as we continue to provide programs and services to the developmentally disabled people in our community. You can visit our website at www.hcaserves.com and click "donate", find our Go Fund Me Page on our Facebook Page: HCA— Helping Celebrate Abilities, or simply mail your gift payable to HCA to: HCA Finance Dept., 840 Upper Front St. Binghamton, NY 13905. Your generosity drives our mission. THANK YOU!

NEWS FROM OUR PRESCHOOL DEPARTMENTS

FROM THE SPEECH DEPARTMENT:

All of the therapists in the Speech Department are missing our preschool friends. We know that this is a challenging and confusing time for adults and children alike. During the time away from school, try to establish a fairly consistent routine with your children. Keeping mealtimes, bedtime and “school” times consistent is likely to lead to improved attention and cooperation during activities that may be less motivating than others. The school work portion of your day should be fun and accomplished through play based activities. Try to place limits on screen time, keep reading and playing games, and get outside as much as you can. The backyard is a wonderful place to learn! Don’t hesitate to contact your therapist if you have questions or concerns during this time. We hope to see everyone again soon!

~ April Chidester, Speech-Language Pathology Dept. Coordinator

FROM THE OCCUPATIONAL AND PHYSICAL THERAPY DEPARTMENTS:

Our therapists are doing their best to continue to keep in touch with our families during this time when the preschool and clinic are closed. This communications is happening through email, text, snail mail, Bloomz, Zoom and Facebook. We are providing activity ideas and suggestions as well as links for online resources for families to use at home. We are also in the process of connecting with families through the use of teletherapy now that we have approval from all municipalities to do so as well as the Broome County Early Intervention and NYS Dept. of Education. We are keeping busy learning new ways to use technology to keep up with the therapy needs of our children as much as staff and families are able to do so. We miss the children!

~ Bonnie Cole, Occupational and Physical Therapy Dept. Coordinator

FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT:

Due to our recent world pandemic, HCA Building Blocks Preschool is experiencing some changes while the actual school day has been relocated to family homes versus the rooms of our building sites at Broad St., MacArthur, the Discovery Center and Linnaeus W. West.

The preschool directors and coordinators have been working to implement virtual learning opportunities for our students and families who consent to participation.

Each of our building sites will be using a virtual learning platform to assist parents in continuing educational opportunities in their homes during this unprecedented time. Specific Facebook pages have been created for classroom locations to share ideas with families to continue learning at home if families choose to do so. Activities are listed and grouped according to specific goal areas such as Literacy, Mathematics, Music and Movement, Fine Motor, Gross Motor and others. ZOOM and BLOOMZ are providing “real time” interactions with classroom friends.

Parents and teachers are working collaboratively to continue with the education of their preschool students. The Clinical staff are also working together to provide virtual opportunities for OT, PT and Speech services for those families who are interested in receiving telehealth.

At this particular time we are all being challenged by the unknown and have many unanswered questions. We can hope for a smooth transition back to our preschool in the near future.

~ Lynn Gilyard, Education Director

HCA’s integrated preschool programs continue to grow and the number of children needing early childhood developmental skills is on the rise. With this growing need, HCA has embarked on a Preschool Expansion Campaign in order to build two more integrated classrooms. With your help, we can enhance the lives of our future. Please consider donating to our Project by visiting our website at www.hcaserves.com or our Go Fund Me Page which can be found on our Facebook page, HCA – Helping Celebrate Abilities. We are also grateful for any donations mailed to us at HCA, 840 Upper Front Street, Binghamton, NY 13905. Thank you for making an investment in the lives of our children!



Marketing & Development

840 Upper Front Street

Binghamton, NY 13905

HAVE YOUR NEWSLETTER EMAILED!

We would love to have you help us save on printing costs and have your newsletter emailed directly to you! Send your email address to m.truman@hcaserves.com and we will add you to our email list!

ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY!

HCA's Building Blocks Preschool has openings for Fall 2020 school year! Morning and afternoon classes, playground, and school nurse on site. Very low tuition rates!

**For more information, call Lynn Gilyard at
(607) 798-7117 x309**

Our Locations:

Main Office, Preschool, Clinic

18 Broad Street, Johnson City, NY 13790

Phone: (607) 798-7117

Fax: (607) 798-0074

Email: hca1serves@aol.com

Finance, Human Resources, Quality Assurance

840 Upper Front St., Binghamton, NY 13905

Phone: (607) 217-0066

Fax: (607) 217-0069

Residential & Community Supports

1329 Campville Road, Endicott NY 13760

Phone: (607) 205-1077

Fax: (607) 953-4243



Helping Celebrate Abilities



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Abilities



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